



CITY OF  
**OAKLAND**

Department of  
Violence Prevention

## Violence Prevention Mini-Grants Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**WHO CAN APPLY?** Small non-profit organizations (with annual budgets less than \$500,000) and individual community members can apply. Long-time Oakland residents living in neighborhoods most impacted by violence who are applying to do projects that directly benefit their neighborhoods will receive priority for funding. However, organizations or individuals with a project that will benefit the identified Oakland communities are encouraged to apply.

**CAN WE APPLY FOR A PROJECT BENEFITING A NEIGHBORHOOD OUTSIDE OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF FOCUS ON THE MAP?** The Department of Violence Prevention (DVP) implements violence intervention programs for the City of Oakland. We are required to focus our efforts on neighborhoods where violence occurs most frequently. In alignment with the City of Oakland's Vision for Racial Equity, only projects benefiting the designated neighborhoods of focus will be funded.

**WHY ARE THERE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS IDENTIFIED ON THE MAP IN THE APPLICATION?** The Department of Violence Prevention is partnering with five community organizations to provide Community Healing support in Oakland -- Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY), Urban Peace Movement (UPM), Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ), Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS), and Roots Community Health Center. Each organization has funds set aside to re-grant as Violence Prevention Mini-Grants to support innovative, resident-led and community-based violence reduction projects.

**DO I NEED TO IDENTIFY A SPECIFIC REGION OR ORGANIZATION FOR MY PROJECT ON THE APPLICATION?** No. Instead be sure to indicate what neighborhood(s) your project seeks to provide community healing activities or events for. DVP staff will sort, assign and distribute all of the applications received to the right organization for review.

**HOW DOES THE DVP DECIDE WHO GETS FUNDED?** Mini-Grant committees, comprised of Oakland community members identified by each of the Community Healing organizations, will spend time reviewing applications and scoring projects. Projects that demonstrate the following will be prioritized:

- *PROMOTE SAFETY AND HEALING:* All projects must promote safety and healing in Oakland to change norms around violence and the stigma around seeking support and healing
- *CENTERS MOST-IMPACTED:* Projects led by those most impacted by gun violence and/or other types of violence in Oakland will be given priority
- *ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY BUILDING AND COLLECTIVE HEALING:* Projects that promote community empowerment, invest in leadership opportunities for people at the center of violence and uplift homegrown, cultural healing practices
- *STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:* Projects that offer collaborative opportunities for families to come together to strengthen familial bonds, improve healing and well-being, and increase their engagement with their neighbors.



CITY OF  
**OAKLAND**

Department of  
Violence Prevention

- **DEMONSTRATE BENEFICIAL IMPACT:** Projects should demonstrate direct, achievable benefits that have a positive community impact

**IF AN ORGANIZATION IS SEEKING AN OUTSIDE FISCAL SPONSOR, CAN THEY USE MINI-GRANT**

**FUNDS TO PAY A FISCAL SPONSOR FEE?** Fiscal sponsor fees are money paid to the fiscally sponsoring organization for managing your project's money. We recognize this is important, however we want to ensure that the majority of the money is in the hands of community members. Fiscal sponsor fees cannot exceed 10%. Indicate this fee in the Direct Costs section of your budget. **DO ALL INDIVIDUALS NEED TO HAVE A FISCAL SPONSOR?** In order to avoid undue tax burden and support capacity building to receive future funding, funds cannot be awarded directly to an individual to carry out their project. Instead, a fiscal sponsor will receive the award and work to set-up the budget and disbursement plan to help complete the project. If you are an Individual in need of a Fiscal Sponsor, please contact [OaklandDVP@oaklandca.gov](mailto:OaklandDVP@oaklandca.gov).

**IF I RECEIVED A MINI-GRANT IN THE PAST, CAN I APPLY AGAIN?** If you were awarded a grant in the first year of the Mini-Grant program, completed your project, and submitted a final report [HERE](#), you may apply again this year. If you requested an extension due to the shelter-in-place brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, and you are close to completing your project, please indicate this on your application for consideration by the community review committee. We love to see how projects evolve from year to year based on what you learn and would encourage you to highlight that.

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF AN ADULT ALLY?** An adult ally is only needed for applications submitted by youth under the age of 18. The role of adult allies varies per project, but generally adult allies support youth in seeing their projects to completion. Adult allies should not be doing the bulk of the work, but we encourage them to assist with logistics like planning, buying materials, and providing mentorship.

**IF AWARDED, WHO WILL OUR FUNDING CHECK BE MADE OUT TO?** The Community Healing partner in your region will make checks out directly to your small organization (registered 501 (c)3) or if you are applying as an Individual to the project's Fiscal Sponsor for the full amount.

**IN WHAT WAYS WILL MINI-GRANT PROJECTS BE SUPPORTED AFTER THEY GET FUNDED?** After award notifications go out, each mini-grantee will be assigned a project supporter. This may be staff from the organization or a member of the Mini-Grant selection committee. The project supporters will check in with you and can answer (or find out the answer to) any of your questions/concerns. At the beginning of your project, staff from the Community Healing organization you are assigned to will conduct a check-in to determine how they can best support your project and assigned project supporter.

**WHAT KIND OF REPORT OR EVALUATION IS REQUIRED?** Each project is unique and what information must be collected and shared will be determined based on your project goals and activities. At the end of the project, your project supporter will facilitate an exit interview and direct you to a brief final



CITY OF  
**OAKLAND**

*Department of  
Violence Prevention*

report that includes the identified required information and provide feedback about your project. In addition, all mini-grantees will attend an end of year event in June 2021 to report out to the broader Oakland community about how your project helped to make Oakland safer and healthier.

**ANY QUESTIONS?** Email [OaklandDVP@oaklandca.gov](mailto:OaklandDVP@oaklandca.gov) or check the website at [oaklandunite.org](http://oaklandunite.org).